deposited with Food & Civil Supplies Department Offices. The Department Staff then verify lifted quantities of ration commodities from Fair Price Shops. This increases accountability and transparency in functioning of Fair Price Shops.

Outlay on food subsidy

2048. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in the proposed outlay on food subsidy is only 6.2 per cent inspite of the inflationary pressure on prices and no attempt is made to resort to a universal PDS since the targeted PDS has a limited reach;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons identified; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the Situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The budget allocation for food subsidy for 2006-07 (Revised Estimates) was Rs. 24203.92 crore, while the allocation for 2007-08 (Budget Estimates) is Rs. 25696.20 crore, showing an increase of 6.2%.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced in June 1997 with a view to target the underprivileged sections of the Society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had an urban bias. The revival of universal PDS would result in the TPDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor, since it would require substantial reduction in allocation of foodgrains for all categories of families.

Government of India is committed to meet the requirement of foodgrains under various welfare schemes including TPDS and other welfare schemes being implemented and all necessary steps for the implementation of these Schemes are being taken.

Reduction in quota of foodgrains

†2049. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether quota for the foodgrains of some of the States has been reduced during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any requests for not reducing the quota for foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.